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December 14, 1959

Dr. Wallace R. Brode  
Science Adviser  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Brode:

I am very sorry indeed that this letter has to be written since I had been under the delusion that we had made great improvements in the tact and efficiency with which we were handling visa applications from foreign scientists. I realize that these problems are not within your executive jurisdiction, but I hope that your position in the State Department is such that it can help to convey the sense of protest of American scientists when these harassments come up.

I am referring to Dr. Laszlo Revesz who now works at the Carolinska Institute in Stockholm in the Institute for Tumor Biology. I know Dr. Revesz only professionally, and from a brief visit to Stockholm last year. He is a scientist with striking originality and talent and a great asset to scientific medicine in Sweden as he would be during his projected visit to the United States. He had planned to visit Stanford University beginning October 1, to work on some rather original ideas in cancer research with Dr. Joseph Kriss and Dr. Henry S. Kaplan at this Medical School. He wrote me on October 30th that he had not yet received his visa and I have subsequently learned that his application continues to be delayed. Furthermore, and this is perhaps the most serious aspect, he has been able to receive no information on the reasons for this procrastination from the American Embassy in Stockholm. Our representatives there must be acting under firm constraint from Washington.

I cannot conceive of any reasonable justification for Dr. Revesz's exclusion. You are, I am sure, very well aware of the damage that incidents of this kind do to our standing in Europe and I trust that its being brought to your attention can serve to have it rectified with a minimum of further delay.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics, and  
Executive Head,  
Department of Genetics

cc: Dr. Julian Mack  
American Embassy  
Stockholm